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ROTARY SHAFT AXIAL ELONGATION MEASURING
METHOD AND DEVICE

RECEIVED
JUL 29 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an axial elongation measuring method and ~~a device therefor~~ ^{for} a rotary shaft, such as a gas turbine or steam turbine rotor shaft, that elongates in the axial direction.

Description of the Prior Art

^{Because}
~~As~~ a rotor shaft of a gas turbine or steam turbine ^{undergoes} ~~causes an~~ axial elongation according to temperature change, it is necessary to accurately monitor whether the elongation is within a predetermined range or not so that no mutual contact of a moving blade and a stationary blade may be caused. One example of the prior art ^{used} to measure the axial elongation of a rotary shaft ~~with such an object~~ is to use a gap sensor to detect a gap caused by the axial elongation, as shown in Fig.

7.

In Fig. 7, numeral 1 designates a rotary shaft, and this rotary shaft 1 is provided with a target face 2 for measuring the axial elongation. A gap sensor 4 is arranged so as to oppose the target face 2. The gap sensor 4 is fitted to a stationary part 6. The gap sensor 4 measures a gap 8 between

the target face 2 and the sensor 4, and, by the change of this gap 8, the axial elongation of the rotary shaft 1 is measured.

In the prior art axial elongation measuring device as mentioned above, the elongation of the rotary shaft 1 is directly measured by the gap sensor 4 relative to the stationary part 6. Therefore, in case the axial elongation of the rotary shaft 1 is large, it is necessary to measure the gap 8 over a wide range, ^{However,} ~~but to measure~~ ^{ing} the gap 8 ^{with} by the gap sensor 4 over the wide range often results in ~~the~~ less accuracy.

Also, as the gap sensor 4 is provided in the axial directional space around the rotary shaft 1 where the gap 8 to be measured exists, a certain space is required in the axial direction of the rotary shaft 1 for installing the gap sensor 4.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the ^{above} mentioned problems in the prior art rotary shaft axial elongation measuring device, it is an object of the present invention to provide a rotary shaft axial elongation measuring method and a device therefor that are free from such problems as mentioned above and are able to measure ~~an~~ axial elongation of a rotary shaft with ~~a~~ high accuracy regardless ~~of sizes~~ ^{amount of} of the axial elongation.

~~As a rotary shaft axial elongation measuring method for~~

~~solving the mentioned problems~~ ^{above} ~~the present invention provides~~ ^{according to}
a rotary shaft axial elongation measuring method for measuring
axial elongation of a rotary shaft, ~~characterized in~~
comprising ^{es} ~~the steps of~~ providing a reference mark and a
5 measuring mark on a rotational surface of the rotary shaft,
the measuring mark ~~being arranged~~ ^{is} inclined relative to an
axial direction of the rotary shaft, ~~arranging a sensor~~ ^{is}
fixed so as to oppose the rotational surface of the rotary
shaft, the sensor generating pulses upon ^{the} passing of the marks
10 ~~following a rotation of the rotary shaft, and measuring the~~ ^{during}
axial elongation of the rotary shaft, ~~from a change in an~~ ^{is measured}
interval of the pulses generated by the sensor upon passing of
the reference mark and measuring mark.

According to the axial elongation measuring method of
15 the present invention, as the measuring mark is ~~provided~~
inclined relative to the axial direction of the rotary
shaft, the circumferential directional position of the
measuring mark line relative to the position of the reference
mark changes according to the axial directional position
20 thereof. On the other hand, the sensor generates ~~the~~ pulses
when the reference mark and the measuring mark pass by the
sensor, following the rotation of the rotary shaft, and hence/
if the axial directional position of the rotary shaft opposing
the sensor changes due to the axial elongation of the rotary
25 shaft, then the interval of the pulses generated by the sensor

differs. Consequently, by measuring the change in the interval of the pulses generated by the sensor, the axial elongation of the rotary shaft can be measured.

In the ~~mentioned~~ axial elongation measuring method of the present invention, the steps are simplified such that the reference mark, and the measuring mark ~~arranged~~ ^{inclined} relative to the axial direction of the rotary shaft, are provided on the rotational surface of the rotary shaft, the axial elongation of which is to be measured, ~~and the sensor is arranged fixedly~~ so as to oppose the rotational surface of the rotary shaft for generating pulses upon ^{the} passing ~~by~~ of the ~~mentioned~~ marks ^{which follow} ~~following~~ the rotation of the rotary shaft. Hence, the gap between the sensor and the rotational surface of the rotary shaft opposing the sensor does not change substantially ^{due to} ~~by~~ the axial elongation of the rotary shaft, and the accuracy of measuring the axial elongation ^{with} ~~by~~ the sensor is in no ^{way} ~~case~~ reduced by the ^{amount} ~~sizes~~ of the axial elongation. Also, according to the method of the present invention, there is no need to install ~~such~~ a sensor and a target face, as in the prior art case, in the axial directional space around the rotary shaft, and thus ~~there~~ occurs no case where ~~the measuring~~ ^{error} becomes impossible due to ^a ~~limitations~~ in the axial directional space of the rotary shaft.

~~Also, as a rotary shaft axial elongation measuring device for solving the mentioned problems, the present~~

^{Further} invention provides a rotary shaft axial elongation measuring device for measuring ~~an~~ axial elongation of a rotary shaft.

~~characterized in comprising~~, a reference mark and a measuring mark ^{on} provided on a rotational surface of the rotary shaft, the

5 measuring mark ~~being arranged~~ ^{is} inclined ~~relative~~ to an axial direction of the rotary shaft, a sensor ~~arranged~~ ^{is} fixed ~~so as~~

to oppose the rotational surface of the rotary shaft, the sensor generating pulses upon ^{the} passing of the marks ~~following a~~ ^{during}

10 rotation of the rotary shaft, and a data processing part ~~for~~ measuring ^{es} the axial elongation of the rotary shaft from a

change in an interval of the pulses generated by the sensor upon ^{the} passing of the reference mark and measuring mark.

According to the rotary shaft axial elongation measuring device of the present invention, ~~such a device is provided as~~ ^{that}

15 is able to measure the axial elongation of the rotary shaft based on the axial elongation measuring method of the present invention as mentioned above.

In the axial elongation measuring device of the present invention, ~~as the construction is made such that~~ ^{because} the axial

20 elongation data is obtained by ^{a fixed} the sensor ~~arranged fixedly so~~ ^{ing} as to oppose the rotational surface of the rotary shaft, the

gap between the sensor and the rotational surface is constant, regardless of ~~sizes of~~ ^{amount of} the axial elongation of the rotary

25 shaft, ^{There} and measuring ^{amount} of the axial elongation with ^{an} high accuracy can be performed.

Also, in the axial elongation measuring device of the present invention, as the sensor may be arranged with a predetermined gap being maintained between itself and the rotational surface of the rotary shaft, only a narrow space is required for measuring the axial elongation, regardless of *the* ~~amount~~ *size* of the axial elongation.

The reference mark and the measuring mark provided on the rotational surface of the rotary shaft in the axial elongation measuring device of the present invention may be two marks provided such that an interval between them in the circumferential direction of the rotary shaft differs according to the axial directional position of the rotary shaft. These two marks may be two grooves or two wire members both provided in a turned V shape.

Also, the measuring mark used in the axial elongation measuring device of the present invention may be a groove or a wire member both provided in a spiral shape on the rotational surface of the rotary shaft.

As mentioned above, the axial elongation measuring device of the present invention may be of a simple construction that is made easily and ^{is} less costly.

The sensor used in the axial elongation measuring method and device of the present invention may be an ordinary gap sensor, such as a capacitance type gap sensor or eddy current gap sensor, or may be a photoelectric sensor that generates a

pulse signal upon ^{the} passing of a mark provided on the rotational surface.

According to the present invention as described above, even in the case where the rotary shaft affords no space for measuring ^{with} by the conventional art to thereby make^{ing} the

measuring ^{correct} of the axial elongation ^{with the conventional art} impossible, the measuring device that can be easily installed for enabling the measuring ^{correct} of the axial elongation is provided.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) show a rotary shaft used in a first embodiment according to the present invention, wherein Fig. 1(a) is a side view and Fig. 1(b) is a front view.

Figs. 2(a) and 2(b) are explanatory views showing the ^a state where pulses generated by a sensor upon rotation of the rotary shaft of Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) change from Fig. 2(a) to Fig. 2(b) ^{due to} by an axial elongation.

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing an entire construction of an axial elongation measuring device of the first embodiment according to the present invention.

Fig. 4 is an explanatory view showing the relation between ~~an~~ accuracy of the axial elongation measuring ^{correct with} by the present invention and that ^{with} by the prior art.

Fig. 5 is a side view showing a rotary shaft used in a second embodiment according to the present invention.

Fig. 6 is an explanatory view showing changes caused by the axial elongation in pulses generated by a sensor upon rotation of the rotary shaft of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a side view showing a construction of a prior art axial elongation measuring device.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Herebelow, a rotary shaft axial elongation measuring device of the present invention will be concretely described based on embodiments as illustrated.

(First Embodiment)

A first embodiment according to the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 1 to 4. In Figs. 1(a) and 1(b), numerals 10 and 12, respectively, designate grooves that are provided in a rotational outer circumferential surface of a rotary shaft 1 so as to oppose one another ^{at an} ~~inclined~~ ^{and which form} in a turned V shape. Thus, the grooves 10, 12, opposing one another, extend ^{at an} ~~inclined~~ ^{relative to} in an axial direction of the rotary shaft 1, ~~and an interval between the~~ grooves 10, 12 changes according to the axial directional position thereof, ~~so that a construction is made such that one~~ of the grooves 10, 12 constitutes a reference mark as hereinafter referred to and the other constitutes a measuring mark as hereinafter referred to.

Numerals 14 designates a sensor that is arranged so as

to oppose the rotational outer circumferential surface of the rotary shaft 1. This sensor 14 may be a sensor, such as a capacitance type gap sensor, eddy current gap sensor or photoelectric sensor, that generates a pulse or pulse signal according to a change in a capacitance, eddy current or reflection of light following a change in a gap between the sensor 14 and the rotational outer circumferential surface of the rotary shaft 1 when the grooves 10^{and} 12 pass by the sensor 14 by the rotation of the rotary shaft 1.

In the measuring device of Figs. 1(a) and 1(b), constructed as above, if the rotary shaft 1 rotates, the grooves 10^{and} 12 pass by the sensor 14, and the sensor 14 puts out pulses, as shown in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b), corresponding to a time t_1 , ^{which} is a time from passing by the sensor 14 ^{of the} groove 10 ^{until} ^{does so,} ^a ^{which} ^{the} ^{is} ^a time t_2 , ^{of one rotation of the rotary shaft 1.}

As the position of the sensor 14 is fixed, if the rotary shaft 1 elongates in the axial direction and the axial directional position of the grooves 10^{and} 12 changes, then the circumferential directional interval between the grooves 10^{and} 12 at the position of the sensor 14 changes. Hence, ^{due to} the axial elongation of the rotary shaft 1, the pulses generated by the sensor 14 change as shown in Fig. 2(b), so that the pulses change from those having a pulse interval ratio of t_1/t_2 in Fig. 2(a) to those having a different pulse interval

ratio of t_{12}/t_{22} in Fig. 2(b).

Thus, by measuring the change in the pulse interval ratio t_1/t_2 obtained by the sensor 14, the axial elongation of the rotary shaft 1 can be measured.

5 Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing an entire construction of the axial elongation measuring device, wherein the pulse interval ratio of the pulses detected by the sensor 14 is sent to a data processing part 16 and the axial elongation obtained at the data processing part 16 is displayed at a display part 18.

10 The grooves ^{and} 10, 12 of the rotary shaft 1 may be provided in the outer circumferential surface of the rotary shaft 1 within the range of $1/2$ or less of the entire outer circumference as shown in Fig. 1(b), and then, if the ratio t_1/t_2 is more than 0.5 ($t_1/t_2 > 0.5$), the axial elongation and the ratio t_1/t_2 can be decided correspondingly as $(1-t_1/t_2)$ and thereby the data processing can be simplified.

15 ^{With} According to the means to measure the interval changes of the marks provided in the rotational outer circumferential surface of the rotary shaft 1 by the sensor 14, arranged 20 oppositely to this rotational surface as described above, as ^{the cause} the gap between the sensor 14 and the rotational surface, as the object to be measured, is constant regardless of the axial elongation, the measuring accuracy can be maintained 25 constant. This is shown by Fig. 4, wherein ① shows the

accuracy of the present invention and ② shows the state where the measuring accuracy becomes lower as the gap between the sensor and the object to be measured becomes larger ^{due to} the axial elongation as ^{with} in the case shown in Fig. 7.

5 (Second Embodiment)

A second embodiment according to the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 5 and 6. In Fig. 5, numeral 20 designates a spiral groove that is provided in the rotational outer circumferential surface of the rotary shaft 1 over the axial elongation measuring range as shown ~~there~~. Numeral 22 designates a groove that constitutes a reference mark and is provided extending in the axial direction in the rotational outer circumferential surface of the rotary shaft 1. A sensor 14-1 is arranged so as to oppose the rotational surface of the rotary shaft 1 at the position where the spiral groove 20 is provided and another sensor 14-2 is arranged so as to oppose the rotational surface of the rotary shaft 1 at the position where the groove 22, as the reference mark, is provided.

20 In the measuring device of Fig. 5 described above, if the rotary shaft 1 rotates and the grooves 20 ^{and} 22 pass by the sensors 14-1 ^{and} 14-2, respectively, then the sensors 14-1 ^{and} 14-2, ^{respectively} put out pulses. Fig. 6 shows the state of the pulses generated, ~~wherein~~ ③ shows the pulses generated by the sensor 14-2 corresponding to the rotational movement of the

groove 22 as the reference mark of the rotary shaft 1, and time ~~t3~~ ^{the} ~~t3~~ is a time of one rotation of the rotary shaft 1. On the other hand, ④ of Fig. 6 shows the pulses generated by the sensor 14-1 when the spiral groove 20 passes by the sensor 14-1 and ^{one} each of the pulses is generated per rotation of the rotary shaft 1.

As the spiral groove 20 ^{is} being arranged in a spiral form, it changes its position ^{where it is} to pass by the sensor 14-1 ⁱⁿ corresponding ^{one with} to the axial elongation of the rotary shaft 1, time ~~t4~~ ^{time} of Fig. 6 ~~that~~ is a time difference between the pulses ③ ^{and} ④ ^{and} changes corresponding to the axial elongation. Consequently, by measuring the change in the ratio t_4/t_3 , the axial elongation of the rotary shaft 1 can be obtained, ~~like as~~ in the case of the first embodiment.

It is to be noted that, while the present invention has been concretely described based on the embodiments as illustrated, the present invention is not limited to these embodiments but, needless to mention, may be added ^{to} with various modifications in the concrete structure and construction thereof as come within the scope of the claims ~~as~~ appended.

For example, while in the above embodiments, the grooves are formed as the reference mark and the measuring mark provided on the rotational surface of the rotary shaft 1, a wire member, such as a wire made of aluminum or stainless

steel, may be fitted instead, as a mark, by spot welding or the like so as to form a projection on the rotational surface.

Also, while in the first embodiment, the two marks are arranged to oppose one another ^{atan} ~~inclined~~ in the turned V shape, the arrangement may be made such that one of the marks is arranged ~~in~~ parallel with the axis of the rotary shaft 1 and the other is inclined relative to the axial direction so that ^{form} ~~forming~~ of the marks may be facilitated.

Abstract of the Disclosure

A rotary shaft axial elongation measuring method and device enable ~~an~~ accurate measuring of a rotary shaft axial elongation regardless of ~~sizes~~ ^{the amount} of the elongation. Grooves

(10, 12), arranged ~~mutually~~ ^{to each other} opposing in a turned V shape along ~~the~~ axial direction, are provided in a rotational surface of ~~a~~ ^{the} rotary shaft (1), ^{whose} axial elongation ~~of which~~ is to be measured.

A sensor (14) is arranged opposing ^{to} the rotational surface of the rotary shaft (1). The sensor (14) generates pulses upon passing of the grooves (10, 12) following rotation of the rotary shaft (1). As a circumferential interval between the grooves (10, 12) differs according to the axial directional position of the rotary shaft (1), if the positions of the grooves (10, 12) at the position of the sensor (14) change due to the axial elongation, ^{the} interval of the pulses generated by the sensor (14) changes. Thus, by the change in the pulse generation interval, the axial elongation is measured.